

Statement on Zero Tolerance for Prescription Drug Internet Sites That Harm Patient Safety and Health

December 28, 1999

Prescription drug sites on the Internet have given consumers new options to obtain needed medications, sometimes at a more affordable price. This industry is in its infancy, however, and rogue operators pose a threat to the health of Americans. Today we are unveiling a proposal

that sends a signal that we have zero tolerance for prescription drug Internet sites that ignore Federal and State laws and harm patient safety and health. Dispensing medications through the Internet without prescriptions or licenses must stop.

Statement on Housing Vouchers

December 29, 1999

I am pleased to announce that my budget for FY 2001 will include \$690 million for 120,000 new housing vouchers to help America's hard-pressed working families. These housing vouchers subsidize the rents of low income Americans, helping them to move closer to job opportunities. Housing vouchers are a critical part of my administration's efforts to reform welfare, reward work, support working families, and provide affordable housing for low income families.

In today's booming economy, about two-thirds of new jobs are being created in the suburbs, far from where many low income families live. These new housing vouchers will enable families to move closer to a new job, reduce a long commute, or secure more stable housing that

will help them get or keep a job. We should use 32,000 of the 120,000 new housing vouchers to help families moving from welfare to work and to use 18,000 vouchers to help homeless individuals and families secure permanent housing.

Last year we worked with Congress to secure 50,000 housing vouchers, the first in 4 years. This November we fought hard to provide 60,000 additional vouchers for hard-pressed working families in the final FY 2000 budget agreement, after having been eliminated by both the House and Senate bills. As we work on the next budget, I urge Congress to join me in a bipartisan effort to fund new housing vouchers that will make housing more affordable for more working Americans.

Letter to the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations Reporting on the Venezuela-United States Tax Convention

December 29, 1999

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In accordance with the resolution of advice and consent to ratification of the Convention Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Venezuela for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and Capital, together with a Protocol, adopted by the Senate

of the United States on November 5, 1999, I hereby certify that:

In connection with Declaration (1), New Venezuelan Tax Law:

- (i) the new Venezuelan tax law has been enacted in accordance with Venezuelan law;
- (ii) the Department of Treasury, in consultation with the Department of State, has

thoroughly examined the new Venezuelan tax law; and
(iii) the new Venezuelan tax law is fully consistent with and appropriate to the obligations under the Convention.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: The letter was sent to Jesse Helms, chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 30.

Message on the Observance of a New Millennium *December 30, 1999*

Warm greetings to all Americans as we welcome a new century and a new millennium. This rare moment in our history is a time for hope and reflection, a time to recognize both the challenges and the opportunities that will face us in the coming years.

We have much to celebrate on this wonderful occasion and many reasons to be proud. Today we are enjoying the longest sustained period of economic growth in our nation's history, offering greater opportunities for every American. We can be rightfully proud, too, that the history of our democracy, with its widening circle of human freedom, still inspires the world and that America continues to serve as a leader in promoting peace and human rights across the globe.

Even as we celebrate our successes, however, we must also acknowledge that we face many challenges in the century ahead. While we are making great strides toward achieving full equality and justice for all Americans, we must ensure that in the coming century all our people live in One America—an America where we are not separated from one another by prejudice, by economic injustice, or by a digital divide.

We must have the vision to use new technology to improve our schools and stir the creativity of our young people; and we must ensure that every school and every child has access to the treasury of electronic resources that lies just beyond our keyboards and computer screens. We must continue our efforts to find cures for the diseases that still afflict us and that ravage many parts of the developing world. And we must put new resources at the disposal of our artists, scholars, and scientists to help them make new discoveries, preserve our historic legacy, and light tomorrow with the fire of their imaginations.

The theme for our national millennial celebration is "Honor the Past—Imagine the Future." By resolving at this moment to make a lasting difference in the lives of others, both in our communities and around the world, we will keep faith with our great past and ensure that America's future will reflect our fundamental ideals of freedom and opportunity for all.

Best wishes for an unforgettable celebration.

BILL CLINTON

Remarks on the Resignation of President Boris Yeltsin of Russia and an Exchange With Reporters *December 31, 1999*

The President. Good morning. Not long ago, I had about a 20-minute phone conversation with President Boris Yeltsin, who today ends his historic tenure as Russia's democratically elected President. Under his leadership, since 1991, the Russian people have faced the unprec-

edented challenge of building a new democracy and a new life after decades of corrosive Communist rule. His lasting achievement has been dismantling the Communist system and creating a vital democratic process within a constitutional framework. The fact that Prime Minister Putin